

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) An embolic protection filter ~~medical device~~, comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a filter coupled to the shaft, the filter including a filter loop and a filter membrane coupled to the filter loop;

wherein the filter loop includes a nickel-titanium alloy; and

wherein the filter loop includes a first portion that includes a linear elastic nickel-titanium alloy member and wherein having at least one localized area of flexibility is defined in the filter loop formed by selectively heating an intermediate portion of the filter loop member to a temperature sufficient to induce superelasticity in the filter loop and define a super elastic nickel-titanium alloy second portion of the filter loop member, wherein the linear elastic member defines a filter leg.

24-27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) An embolic protection filter, ~~medical device~~ comprising:

an elongate shaft;

a filter coupled to the shaft, the filter including a linear elastic member having a linear elastic region and a localized superelastic region;

wherein the localized superelastic region is formed by heating an intermediate portion of the linear elastic member to a temperature sufficient to form the localized

superelastic region within the linear elastic member, wherein the linear elastic member defines a filter leg.

29. (previously presented)The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member has only one localized superelastic region.

30. (previously presented)The medical device of claim 28, wherein the localized superelastic region comprises an articulation region.

31. (previously presented)The medical device of claim 28, wherein the localized superelastic region is formed by heating to a temperature that is at least as high as a final austenitic temperature of a material forming the linear elastic member.

32. (previously presented)The medical device of claim 28, wherein the linear elastic member is formed of a linear elastic nickel-titanium alloy and the localized superelastic region comprises, after the heating step, a superelastic nickel-titanium alloy.

33-36. (cancelled)